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DESERET NEWS' PHONES.

Persons desiring to communicate by
telephone with any department of the
Deseret News, will save themselves and
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ance if they will take time to notice
these numbers:For the Chief Editor's office, 74-3.
For Deseret News Book Store, 74-2.
For City Editor and Reporters, 33-2.
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For Business Office, 33-4.

ABOUT BROKEN PLEDGES.

During the "recent unpleasantness"

we heard a great deal about "broken
pledges," and the charge that the
Church had violated its compact with
the nation by which statehood was
secured, was repeated, as an admitted
or proved fact, so often that it was
the burden of the A. P. U. orations. Now,
to begin with, there was not and could
not be any "compact" between a church
and this nation as a basis for state-
hood. That would be a political impos-
sibility, and may be dismissed as a
whiff of forensic effrontery.The only bit of apparent basis for the
allusion to "pledges," is found in the
petition of leading Church authorities
for amnesty to certain individuals, who
with their families were under disabili-
ties in consequence of the extreme en-
forcement of the laws of Congress
aimed at polygamous practices. Refer-
ence to that petition will show, beyond
reasonable question, that in asking
clemency of the President for those
people they simply said:"As shepherds of a patient and suffer-
ing people we ask amnesty for them
and pledge our faith and honor for
their future."The amnesty asked for was granted
under certain conditions and limita-
tions, and that is all there was to the
matter. The admission of Utah into
the Union was not mentioned in the en-
tire proceedings, and when it occurred
it settled the possibility of further Fed-
eral action concerning the offenses for
which amnesty was asked. There was
no "compact" or agreement between the
Church and the nation in respect to
Statehood or anything else. The pledge
for the future was solely in reference
to the persons for whom clemency was
requested.Now as to the talk about pledges to
the nation concerning future Church
domination in politics. It is frequently
asserted that the authorities of the
Church solemnly pledged themselves
that they would cease to exercise such
political control, and that in future
their people should be free as to polit-
ical choice and action. That, too, is
without foundation as to any compact,
agreement or pledge to the nation. All
that has been argued as to this matter
was taken, not from any formal "com-
pact," for nothing of the kind was ever
entered into by the Church and the gov-
ernment, and could not be, but from an
interview with Presidents Wilford
Woodruff and George Q. Cannon by the
Salt Lake Times, published June 23,
1891.In that interview these Church lead-
ers most emphatically denied the
charges that the "Mormon" people had
been under Church dictation in polit-
ics, that there had been any disposi-
tion to unite Church and state, or that
such union had any real existence.
And they announced that the Church
did not claim and would not exercise
any right to control the political action
of members of that body. The Lat-
ter-day Saints in Conference assembled
declared, by unanimous resolution,
that they had not been so controlled,
but were and would be politically free.
All this, however, was outside of and
had no reference to any "compact"
with or pledge to the nation.Neither the leaders nor the mem-
bers of the "Mormon" Church ever
entered into an agreement with the
nation or with any party or faction,
that they would relinquish any right
of citizenship. They count themselves
on an equal plane with other citizens
of this country, nothing less and
nothing more as to political belief
and action. They claim no authority
to dictate, command, control, or com-
pel their fellow citizens or Church
members in political affairs. They do
not attempt to exercise such power.
All the declarations of pretended
liberators from Church domination
are the veriest nonsense and stupid-
ity. It is sorrowful to see intelligent
people inflamed or led away by such
arrant humbug.Such pledges as have been made
with the nation were between Utah
and the government. They are con-
tained in the Enabling Act and the
Constitution. They have been kept to
the letter and in the spirit of the com-
pact. If there have been any cases
of individual violation of the agree-
ment they are very rare and are at
the disposition of the courts.The clamor raised would be farcical
in the extreme if it were not for its
effects upon the uninformed. It is
shameful and inexcusable. It ought
to be exposed and silenced. It does
no good to anybody but is injurious
to the State and its material inter-ests. It need not be agitated and
should be suppressed. Pay no atten-
tion to it, or else put a stop to it, now
and forever!

HERE'S "CHURCH INFLUENCE."

In copying items from the New York
Sun, dating them three days later and
printing them as special to the Tri-
bune, the organ of the A. P. U. must
have overlooked the following in the
Sun of Monday, Nov. 7, or deciding that
it was not of special use the Tribune did
not print it for its "special" columns.
We supply the omission but give the
proper credit. The article in the Sun
is headed, "Church Applauds Roose-
velt.""Dr. Robert S. MacArthur preached
in Calvary Baptist Church last night on
the 'Church and the Labor Box,' and
the entire congregation broke into ap-
plause on President Roosevelt and
Chairman Cortelyou. Dr. MacArthur
said:"It is not too much to say that the
foremost man in all the world tonight is
the President. The country has passed
today from provincialism to continent-
alism and there is no power on earth
can stop this expansion. The political
party which tries to stop this expan-
sion is a party whose expansion the
people will stop.""No matter to what party a President
belongs he is the President of the Amer-
ican people and the man who tries to
defile his honor and besmirch his name
defiles the honor of the American peo-
ple. The people won't forget that fact
next Tuesday.""In the present administration im-
perialism? What has it done? It has de-
stroyed imperialism in Cuba, crushed it
out in Porto Rico. It has made every
stripe and star a voice for liberty. I
hear America chanting in a sweet voice
the Te Deum of liberty, singing it over
Cuba and over the Philippines, giving
hope to the poor and discouraged."Just imagine one of the "Mormon"
speakers in the Tabernacle, or other
meetinghouse, making such remarks,
and the congregation applauding them!
Would not the foremost organ have
favored its readers with column after
column of comments about "Church
influence in politics?" And there would
have been no need for its fabrication
of alleged political speeches, on the part
of some persons in bearing testimony
concerning their faith, at the fast meet-
ings last Sunday. We have heard num-
erous protests against the infamy of
the Tribune in that respect. That
might have been avoided if the item
copied above had been attributed to
some "Mormon" Church meeting.Of course it was all right for the
New York Reverend to preach politics
in the pulpit because he is not a "Mor-
mon." But no "Mormon" Elder must
dare express a political opinion even in
private, lest his words might be con-
strued as "Church domination." Against
the slanders hurled at President Roose-
velt, as pointed out by the Baptist
preacher, the people entered their pro-
test at the polls. In a similar way the
great majority of the citizens of Utah
entered their protest against the false
hoods and vile personalities of the
champions of the A. P. U. But we
would like to have some wielder or
victim of "Church domination" in Utah
brought before the political footlights,
that the public may have a look at the
"horrible example." Fetch him out!

PROOFS ACCUMULATE.

The evidences of the existence on this
continent, many centuries ago, of a
highly civilized people, have accumu-
lated to such an extent during the past
century that the fact is no longer
among the doubtful theories or myths
of folklore. The discoveries of ruined
cities, fortifications, pyramids, temples
and palaces, with works of art, and
hieroglyphic inscriptions, all indicate
in a positive manner the rise and fall
of races far superior to any of "the
remnants left of the land," the tribes we
call American Indians.It is remarkable that prejudice
against everything claiming to be in
the nature of divine revelation in mod-
ern times, should hinder scientific and
candid investigation of the historical
features of the Book of Mormon, the
truth of which has received such abun-
dant attestation in the discoveries here
referred to.We are led to these reflections on this
subject by the recent news of a visit
of archaeologists to a deserted city in
"the wilds of Argentina," as briefly
touched upon a few days ago by the
Seattle Times. The incident is but one
out of hundreds of a similar character
that have occurred since the coming
forth of the record of the Nephites, and
we give it place in our columns as sim-
ply a sample of the proofs that have
accumulated. The Times says:"The finding of a long deserted city
in the Andes, far away in the wilds of
Argentina, is the interesting report
brought to this city by Prof. Von Bur-
gess of Berlin, and William J. Hemm-
ingway of New York, two archaeologists
and explorers who arrived at the Cecil
Hotel last night from South America.""The expedition was organized by the
professor, and about a year ago it set
out to look for the legendary city, under
the guidance of Mr. Hemmingsway, after
months of hardship, the party made a
fresh start from Arica and followed
the range of mountains to a point about
fifty miles below the mouth of the Im-
perial river. Thence they struck into
the mountains and after several weeks
entered a comparatively small valley
which contained the long lost city.""In the opinion of Prof. Burgess, the
city had been deserted for about 2,000
years and was almost completely over-
grown again by the forest. The stone
buildings, however, were in a state of
almost perfect preservation, and graves
disclosed the remains of a well devel-
oped race. The men evidently were
more than six feet in height, while the
women were also of large stature. The
implements found would indicate that
they were engaged in husbandry and
stock raising.""No writings or carvings were discov-
ered, but from other internal evidence,
Prof. Von Burgess feels justified in fix-
ing the date of the desertion of the
city at 2,000 years ago. It appeared
that at one time 1,500 inhabitants, but
the cause of its abandonment is a mys-
tery, the only explanation that fits the
known facts being that it was desav-
ated by an epidemic of some descrip-
tion.""The party has brought back many
interesting relics of the deserted city,
which will go to enrich the museums of
Germany and the eastern states."

BOOK OF MORMON POETRY.

"Branches That Run Over the Wall"

is the title of a neat little book by
Louisa L. Greene Richards, also known
as Lula in local literary circles. It
is divided in three parts. The first con-tains a series of poems in which the
author tells the wonderful story of
the departure of Lehi from Jerusalem.
It is this story that suggests the title,
and it may be observed, in passing,
that the cover design which, as well as
the illustrations, is by Lee Greene
Richards, is very nicely embodying
the same beautiful idea—"Branches
that run over the wall." The second
part consists of poems on miscellane-
ous topics, and short stories, and closes
with a couple of musical selections, one
by Prof. Evan Stephens, and one by
Prof. Joseph E. Fones. The third part
is a book, "The Children's Garland."
The also consists of poems and little
stories, some of which are real gems.
The little volume has a prefatory let-
ter by President Anthon H. Lund, and
one from Elder Geo. Reynolds. Presi-
dent Lund says: "I have enjoyed read-
ing your composition, and I believe
thousands will do the same." We join
the friends of Sister Richards in wish-
ing success for her effort at clothing
a wonderful story in poetic garb.

COMPETENT PREACHING.

One of the topics earnestly considered
at a recent English church congress
was the decline in church attendance.
One of the speakers stated that in a
certain district in London, while the
population had increased by about five
hundred thousand in the last seven
years, the attendance at churches had
fallen by over one hundred thousand.
This may be an extreme case, but the
fact is that it represents a general con-
dition, in evidence in all large centers
of population.The suggestion was made that "in-
competent preaching" is one of the
leading causes of the decline in attend-
ance. And this, no doubt, true. But
some difficulty will be encountered in
determining in this age of religious
platitudes, what "competent preaching"
is.Some time ago Dr. Guseaus of Chi-
cago undertook to discuss civil re-
forms in the pulpit, under the impres-
sion, we presume, that "competent
preaching" must have for themes some-
thing of interest to the citizen. But
his sermon caused quite a discussion.
Some insisted that the ministers should
confine themselves to "purely relig-
ious" topics. Their mission should be,
they said, to raise and to invigorate
the soul, to lead in worship, to stimu-
late to charity and to piety. They
should not mix in politics. They should
not discuss civil reforms in the pulpit,
or make their church organizations ef-
fective for the betterment of the general
conditions of the community in which
they live.Others took a different view. They
argued that the church must be prac-
tical, as well as theoretical; that it
has a mission in the world that is not
confined to spiritualizing the minds
of the church members, and that in the
presence of a vast army of active evil,
it should engage in active offensive
warfare, and marshal the hosts of
righteousness for practical work
against evil and for good in all pos-
sible ways. Ministers and congrega-
tions were equally divided on this
question, and it is evident, therefore,
that what some may regard as "com-
petent preaching," others will certainly
class as incompetent.The real difficulty with modern
preaching and preaching is the absence
of a divine commission. A man
who is conscious of having a
divine message, and who knows that
the salvation of his own soul depends
on the deliverance of that message,
will be a competent preacher. Noah
was a competent preacher, although
the visible results of his long ministry
were, humanly speaking, discouraging.
Moses was another competent preacher,
as the royal court of Egypt finally dis-
covered. Elijah, Paul, and a "host
of witnesses" were competent preach-
ers, because they all had a message
from the Almighty to his children.
They were ambassadors, regularly ac-
credited, and constantly in touch with
the divine government they were sent
to represent. Under no other cir-
cumstances can preaching be compe-
tent.Churches may, indeed, be made cen-
ters of learning. Pulpit orators may
discuss instructively astronomy, geol-
ogy, physiology, etc., and express
reverence for the divine Author of the
world and all it contains. But that
is the province of high schools and
universities, and perhaps the popular
lecture platform.Pulpit orators may preach ethics, dis-
cuss social questions and civil reforms.
They may be earnest, edifying, in-
structive. But this does not constitute
"competent preaching." In any other
sense than the addresses by reformers,
politicians, or temperance lecturers.The preacher without a message and
without divine credentials has really
no place in the intellectual activities
of the world. As a statesman, a pro-
fessor of sciences, a reformer, or even
an actor, he may fill a useful place,
but as a preacher without a message
from God, he is an anomaly. These
are facts of which the world interested
in church questions needs a clear un-
derstanding. Then the question of
effective preaching and church attend-
ance will cease to trouble.The silent voter now is the one who
didn't win.Has Colonel Henry Watterston been
stricken dumb?It is easier to hope against hope than
against facts.Japan appears to want peace, but
not at any price."For wrath killeth the foolish man,
and envy slayeth the silly one."How funny it will sound to speak of
J. Pierpont Morgan as Sir John.If eternal vigilance is the price of
liberty, what is the price of an election?Just think of calling so young a man
as President Roosevelt "Old Plurality."It is not quite certain which party
will yet sing, "Maryland, My Mary-
land."Blue point oysters have taken a
drop. Too many besides blue points
take a drop.Judge Parker will practise law.
Popular impression was that he would
turn Cincinnati.Go to church tomorrow and experi-
ence just what "church influence" is.
It makes better Christians of people.Those Cody bandits may have been
buried by the great landslide as they
were passing through the mountains of
Wyoming.Not so many little boys will bear the
name of Alton B. P. as might have
done had things been otherwise than
as they were.There are few men who are not "re-
ceptive candidates" for United States
senatorship, should the Legislature in-
sist on thrusting the office upon them.Utah has been awarded more gold
medals at the World's Fair. It is a
splendid thing to do and every citizen,
including Indians untaxed, should be
proud of his State.During his campaign for re-election,
Congressman Goldfogle missed five
thousand babies. This establishes a
record and beats anything ever
dreamed of by the Pickwickian candi-
date.The cost of the campaign to both par-
ties is said to have been twenty-two
and a half million dollars. And there
wasn't such a lot of brass bands, march-
ing clubs and processions, either.
Presidential campaigns come high but
we must have them.Frank Carpenter's letter in today's
issue of the "News" is replete with
most excellent hints and suggestions to
ambitious boys and young men and
may be read with profit by all. The
story of the success of great merchant
princes is tersely and interestingly told
by our regular correspondent.Let the people begin to think about
the school election. Only the very
best citizens should be put on the
Board of Education, which must be
kept absolutely and honestly non-parti-
san. There exists in this city an
organization that intends, if it can get
control of them, to make the public
schools bitterly partisan.The local correspondent of the Bos-
ton Transcript evidently does not
think the "Mormons" so very much
unlike other people when it comes to
politics. Summing up the situation in
this State just before election he said:
"The Republican party made no deals
with the Mormon leaders. Deals were
not needed. The Mormons have sugar,
mining, railway and other concerns,
and the legislation which they seek for
those interests must be had from the
Republican party if it is had at all."

ON RELIGIOUS TOPICS

The Churchman.

The conscience of the church is quick-
ened in regard to the marriage of di-
vorcees. The vote on the canon
forbidding the clergy to marry divorced
persons indicated this; the final action
of the convention demonstrated it. Al-
though securing a constitutional vote
against the stricter canon, the numer-
ical minority were willing to go to
the church and to the country on the
old canon, while many who voted for
the proposed canon were equally unwill-
ing to leave Boston without, as they
said, accomplishing something. Such
conditions can only lead to progress.

Congregationalist and Christian World.

Our opinion is that under the old re-
gime the institution of the church al-
lied with the institution of the state
often did gross injustice to individuals.
It is both possible and likely that with
the severance of church and state, with
the increase in the spirit of individual-
ism, and with present and future em-
phasis on freedom and happiness rather
than on duty and blessedness, a con-
dition may be reached where a reaction
toward the older position will be inevit-
able, if, indeed, it has not come already.
But it can only be partial, not com-
plete; and the church that enacts arbi-
trary and simple laws to deal with a
spiritual and complex problem errs
tactically."

Northwestern Christian Advocate.

The separation of church and state in
France seems certain to take place
at no distant day. In the French cham-
ber of deputies, Oct. 22, the policy of
Premier Combes was sustained by a
vote of 225 to 227. The result of the
vote practically assures the immediate
abrogation of the concordat and of the
permanent separation of the republic
and the Roman Catholic church. The
vote followed an exciting two days' de-
bate. M. Combes, in reply to critics
of his policy, said: "The rupture of
relations between the Vatican and
France showed the impossibility of con-
tinuing the present concordat between
the church and the state. The Vatican
had sought to discipline the Bishop of
Laval before an ecclesiastical court
which the French laws did not recog-
nize. The rupture had charged the
bishop with frequenting a Carmelite
convent and writing love letters to the
nuns. Christian charity," the premier
said, "ought to save and protect the
bishop against the royalist charges, but
it was evident that Satan was contin-
uing in his work." The premier's refer-
ence to the royalists precipitated violent
disorder.

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